

## **NORTHSTAR CHURCH NETWORK GUIDELINES FOR SABBATICAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Purpose**

A sabbatical leave, unlike a vacation, is a time for reflection, study, and rest for ministers. This aids in the spiritual, mental, and sometimes physical, wellness of the minister.

We encourage NorthStar churches to develop a sabbatical leave policy that indicates the eligibility guidelines for their full-time and part-time ministers to qualify for sabbatical leave. NorthStar Member Churches, with a sabbatical leave policy in place, may apply for a grant of financial assistance for qualifying ministers, as funds permit.

### **Procedure**

The church should contact Katie Harding, Associate Director, preferably by written letter, at [kharding@northstarcnet.org](mailto:kharding@northstarcnet.org) asking for assistance with the name of their minister, tentative dates of leave, and how the sabbatical funds are to be used. Please include a copy of the church sabbatical leave policy.

Within 2 months of the conclusion of the leave, ministers are requested to write a letter to the association explaining how their time was spent and benefits of the sabbatical.

### **Grant Amounts**

\$500 for the first month, \$500 for the second month, with the total not exceeding \$1,000.

### **Administrative Support Staff**

Churches with a sabbatical policy in place for administrative support staff may apply for a one-time grant of \$300.00 per person. The same procedure applies.

### **Book Resources**

*Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning* by A. Richard Bullock and Richard J. Bruesehoff and *Journeying Toward Renewal* by Melissa Bane Sevier.

